

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Paul Graham Howarth et al.  
Serial No. : To be Assigned  
Filed : To be Assigned  
For : SCHEDULING MEANS FOR DATA SWITCHING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please  
make the following amendment to the claims:

In the Claims:Amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) Scheduling means for data switching apparatus having a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports, the scheduling means [being for] capable of processing a plurality of interconnection requests, each request requesting interconnection between a subset of said input ports and a subset of respective said output ports, and each request [being associated with] having a respective priority level (Pi) which [has] is one of a predetermined number of priority levels;

the scheduling means comprising:

determination means for determining a first set of said requests according to said respective priority levels; and